

REMARKS

In the outstanding official action, claims 2-4, 6 and 8 were deemed to be allowable if placed in independent form, while the remaining claims were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bell et al, in view of Birk et al for the reasons of record. In response, claims 2 and 4 are herewith cancelled without prejudice, claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 11 are amended and new claim 12 has been added to place the subject matter of allowable claim 4 in independent form.

Upon entry of this amendment, independent claim 1 will include all of the limitations of allowable claim 2, and it is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1, and the remaining claims depending either directly or indirectly therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Additionally, independent claim 11 is herewith amended in order to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and new claim 12 has been added in order to recite the allowable subject matter of now-cancelled claim 4 in independent form.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is now in condition for allowance in accordance with the indication of

allowable subject matter contained in the outstanding official action, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By



Steven R. Biren, Reg. 26,531

Attorney

(914) 333-9630